PATENT CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for coating a continuously moving web with a liquid hopper (1) that has:

a flow face (8) for forming the coating material into a freely falling curtain (C),

at least one distribution chamber (2) extending transversely of the web-travel direction with an input (10) for the coating material and an output slot (9) on the pour surface (8), and

two lateral downwardly extending guides (7 and 12) for the edges of the curtain (c),

characterized in that the lateral guides (7 and 12) have upper ends shaped to conform to the flow face (8) and are mounted to be transversely adjustable on the flow face (8), and that the coating-material input (10) opens centrally in the hopper (1) into the distribution chamber (2).

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that a suction element (16) is mounted on a lower end of each guide (7 and 12), has an inner face turned toward the curtain (C) and aligned with an inner face of the guide (7 and 12), and has a suction slot (18) connected via a suction passage 17 to a suction line.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterized by respective sealing inserts (31) at each end of the distribution chamber (2), of the same cross section as the distribution chamber, fitting in the outlet slot (9), and transversely adjustable for setting the effective chamber with for the coating width.

4. The apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the guides (7 and 12) are transversely positioned jointly with the inserts (31).

5. The apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the transverse positioning is effected automatically, in particular by a motor, preferably by a linear actuator.

6. The apparatus according to one of claim 1 to 5, characterized in that the guides (7 and 12) are each mounted on a steplessly transversely shiftable support plate (26, 28) that is fixed to guide rods (29) to which the insert (31) is fixed.

7. The apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the cover plate (23) can be moved by a linear drive (25) in a web-travel direction so as to be shifted off the flow face (8).

8. The apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the lower guides (12) are releasably mounted on the cover plate by knurled-head screws (34).